10 Traits of a Good Grant Writer

We all know that grant writers need to have excellent skills in written communication. But be sure to find out if your candidate has the other characteristics it takes to shine!

1. Content knowledge as a specialist or generalist in your field: Knows about the organization’s field of endeavor or is willing to learn quickly!

2. Passion for the nonprofit’s work

3. Training and on-the-job experience: Course work, continuous learning, coaching mentoring and on-the-job experience all are key prerequisites.

4. Resourcefulness as a self-motivated, tenacious researcher

5. People skills: Good at building relationships both within your organization and with outside funders. This includes listening and interviewing skills to get the information needed, and the ability to lead/coordinate the team working on each grant proposal.

6. Multi-tasking and prioritizing skills: With so many deadlines and projects to juggle, grant writers need to know how to handle them with flexibility and grace.

7. Ethics/integrity/reliability: Confidence that they can trust the grant writer to do the right thing and do it consistently.

8. Administrative skills, both big picture and nitty-gritty details: The ability to follow a funder’s guidelines, as well as the nonprofit’s requirements.

9. Ability to learn from rejection and persist

10. Confidence based in knowledge and preparation